Labour

LABOUR.

1481(6)+(6)

Impossible to give a simple and adequate definition in Economics. Generally labour means manual labour. What may be labour to one person may not be labour to another. To me piano playing may be a delight but to another it may be labour e.g. I do gardening work. It is no labour. I hire a worker for gardening it becomes labour. Is labour "Productive"? Is there "Productive" labour"?

PRODUCTION. If it is productive, of what is it so productive? Is it productive of wealth? We have seen how the classical economists have defined wealth as all material goods. Therefore in words of Adam Smith to Mill, labour is productive labour. To them the services of a doctor, a servant, an army or navy would be unproductive because it is immeterial. The essence of production is satisfaction utilities. Hence the services of a doctor etc satisfy a
is productive. Beggars, their-be-weels are parasities. They are not productive labour. The Quock medicine sellers and liquer shopkeepers productive because they sell a need which gives satisfaction. According to Adam Smith a jailer, a policeman, a lawer , a sailor a soldier and a judge were unproductive. This is ~~fix~~

false since they are really productive as shown.

"Labour to be productive must produce economic utility of any kind" says Marshall. Productive labour includes human activities of any sort, intellectual or done by the hand which have economic significance.

POPULATION.

Introductory.

(1) Thomas Robert Malthus, the son of clergyman and master of an East India Company school Hailebery until 1834, where he died, produced his famous "Essay on Population" the causes that made Malthus to write this essay were due to the apalling misery and poverty in England at this period i.e. just after the industrial Revolution. Things were so hard and the poor laws made conditions worse, arising out of this misery and as a solution to it.

MALTHUSIAN THEORY.

(2) At 32 years in 1798 he produced his "Essay on Population" to show optimistic people who thought never seeing of birth and deaths about the severness of

over-production of human species without the means of subsistence. It is not the sole purpose of the human race to reproduce and so a moral restraint should be advocated.

Statement of theory.(1) Population increases geometrically:- 1,2,4,8,16.32,64,128,256,512,1024,2048

Means of subsistence increased arithmetically:- 1,2,3, 4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,

(b) The tendency of population to increase beyond means of subsistence is prevented by two checks.

i. Positive checks use by nature when population increases very quickly. This is discease,famine and epidemics etc. This happens when human species increases ~~xxx~~ in enormous quantities.

2. Preventive checks are those used by human beings to prevent growth of excessive population. These preventive checks may be in the form of birth control and restriction of number of children. They reduce the extra number of births and eaths. Preventive checks also imply a voluntary effort on the part on men e.g. late marriages.

3. If people do not use the preventive checks

Nature will adopt her own method and sweep the country with desease, famine and misery. If human beings, like animals, give full play to their procreative forces, the country will be kept down by misery, poverty dicease and famine. More children ought not to be born than the country can support.

CRITICISM OF MALTHUS:- This theory of Malthus however remains true theoretically. There is no such geometric and arithmetic progression of population and means of subsistence. These factors are immeasureable accurately. The children born after marriage cannot be definitely stated. However such a gloomy day for the world's population can be postponed by an improvement in agriculture yielding an increasing return from the land. Malthus theory only applied to England of that day. Other means of subsistence ~~xxxx~~ besides agriculturist. Optimum theory helps as to postpone the gloomy day.

Improved by 1. Improvements in manufacture.
2. Importation of food.
3. Improvements in agriculture.

Biologists urge that the fertility of human race

disappears with its moral and material restraint. There is no danger of over population.

Malthusian theory has led to Neo-Malthusian theory. Malthus advocated moral restraint. By that they (Neo-Malthus) said he meant moral restraint before and birth control after marriage. According to Malthus moral restraint was before and not after marriage. Later Malthus himself modified this statement.

Nowadays the question is how to increase birth rate? Wealth has grown larger that population due to scientific improvement in many branches of industry.

CONCLUSION.:- Malthus theory is true with reference to facts and conditions of his day but the vast discoveries in science have made possible greater production of wealth. This has happened in advanced country. But the theory of Malthus holds good in backward country like India or China.

POPULATION.

Optimum Theory.:- To Prof. Edwin Cannon we owe the first clear exposition of this theory. This holds the ground today. At any given time the amount of labour exerted from a land is limited. Assuming the amount oflabour increases or decreases with population in question, it follows that the population which can exist consistently with the maximum return per unit is definite when desity of population ~~xxxxx~~ dansuch that the maximum return per unit is attained, we speak of Optimum density" when density under this point we speak of under-population and when density of population is over this point we speak of over-population.

The basal fact is that land of the world is limited definitely. It cannot be expanded. Land being limited it will be necessary to go on increasing men upto a point and beyond that. Up to a certain point an increase in labour .. will pay but anything beyond that point will decrease in giving maximum marginal returns. The law of diminishing returns has sets in. From time to time there